

2016 Walser Bass Tour Season Wrap-up



WBT Members,

Congrats on the completion of another fun season, to the TOC winners **Last Cast**, and to the **Team of the Year Champions Trailer Park Buoys**! Our mission to instill camaraderie, competition, and knowledge for our bass fishing experiences hopefully was met for each of you. From a standpoint of results, we've already spoke about how this year's weights and averages have been the highest we've ever seen, reflective of our mission's intent.

Woman Lake TOC Recap

Speaking of high marks for us in our 6th season, **Last Cast – Paul Hecht and Mark Wessel** totally annihilated the competition and set the bar as high as we have ever seen it for 1 day team totals and big bass! Remarkably, they set the high mark on Day 1, *only to best it on Day 2!* (Day 1 was 24.65 lbs, Day 2 was 24.75 lbs!) They anchored those bags with big bass of 5.95 lbs on Day 1 representing a top 5 big bass for the WBT. (Oh, this was one of 3 5.95 lbers caught that day by teams....) and then on Day 2, they again wowed the field with a giant 6.70 lber!!

We can't speak of Woman Lake without calling out the numerous other 20 lb bags and the 6.40 lb smallmouth that **Mike Doughty of Flippin' & Lippin'** caught on Day 2 – good for Big Bass #2 and ties for the 2nd largest bass caught in WBT history (the other one also caught on Woman Lake in 2014).

With that being said, all fish weren't jumping in the boat; anglers worked for their fish fighting wind, hangovers, and the love/hate relationship with these nomadic smallmouth. This TOC certainly was one for the books and Woman Lake proved to be a big fish factory. I've attached not only the results but a recap to see just how these numbers stack up to the last time we visited Woman Lake in 2014.

2016 Team of the Year – Trailer Park Buoys

With the TOC ending, our WBT season also wraps up and awards the team of the year. For the second year in the row, **Gunnar Meger and Sam Blundell of The Trailer Park Buoys** have captured this illustrious title and received the inaugural trophies sponsored by Pabst Blue Ribbon!

Sam and Gunnar put up impressive weights and finishes throughout the year, accumulating 1st place finishes on North/South Center and Clearwater, 2nd on Mille Lacs and Minnetonka, and a 7th place on Prior Lake. Given Last Cast's momentum coming into the TOC and their resulting totals – the Trailer Park Buoys couldn't rest on the season's lead. They still jacked 20+lb bags for a 3rd place on Day 1 and 2nd place on Day 2 ensuring the grasp of the title for a second straight year!

Congrats to Sam and Gunnar on a strong season from beginning to end and earning the 2016 Team of the Year!



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2016 Sponsorships and Partnerships

This year we saw a level of sponsorship that we haven't had before. The generosity of **Clam Outdoors and Polar Trailers** has created a drive for Big Bass like we haven't experienced! **Pabst Blue Ribbon Beer** provided refreshments for each tournament, swag, and the resulting team of the year trophies! And lastly, **Lewis & Wright Bass Technologies** provided us all a peak into the custom poured baits world, offering free bags for each angler at each tournament. **Please continue to highlight these sponsors on Facebook and by purchasing their products.**

Thank you to Lucas Matzke and Gunnar Meger for helping to establish these relationships for WBT Members. This evolution has created a level of legitimacy and professionalism that simply does not occur for any weekend circuit without "B.A.S.S.", "FLW" or "Cabelas" in front of its name. Truly we are unique on this front.

Thank You – Jesse Larson

A special shout out to WBT Director Jesse Larson who has taken on and successfully promoted the WBT on Facebook. His timely and fun posts have allowed us to stay connected throughout the year and leading up to each tourney. It has also been a source of truth for non-members and other bass fishermen. His accumulation and posting of pictures tells a story that words won't describe – but I guess in some cases you don't need words with the team bags and big bass in 2016. **If you have pics from this weekend or year, please forward those to Jesse.**

If that wasn't enough, those at the TOC got to enjoy the result of his dinner coordination, with the help of **Tim Krebs** and his gourmet microwaved corn and **Paul Hecht** with his elk burgers. The weekend is just that much more fun for the work he does for everyone's benefit. Thank you Tim, Paul and Jesse for this fun experience!

2016 Walser Bass Tour - Final Wrap Up

As Jeremie and I stated at the fire on Saturday night, we had no idea if we would even get past the 2nd season so it's amazing to think we are *only 4 seasons away from 10 years*. I won't restate comments I've made in past emails or conversations about the results this year, I think we all know it's been nothing short of amazing. I hope we all just walk away from this season feeling like as a group and individually, we all improved our fishing game.

The end of year results and historical summary are attached for your viewing pleasure.

Next up will be some initial planning for the (gasp) 2017 season and getting date placeholders to you by end of this month. More info will be conveyed later in December for saving the date for a spring meetings. Some folks have indicated wanting to do a cash-at-the-landing tourney before the ice, and then after, an ice fishing get together that focuses more on the camaraderie aspect. Would be cool if those come together, count me in!

We have concluded the 6th season for the Walser Bass Tour! As I've always said, I believe that the WBT is the best weekend team bass tournament anywhere. Thank you to my Co-Director **Jeremie Larson** for his member and weigh-in efforts. As always, shoot me a call if you have suggestions or just want to get out on the boat together. We look forward to your participation next year and trying to now get to that 25 lb bag and 7 lber!

Jim Krocak

Jeremie Larson

Jesse Larson

Dan Krocak

